

colorimetric assay. Fractions containing NGSP are pooled and extensively dialyzed against 10mM sodium phosphate buffer (SPB, pH8.0) at 4°C.

At page 47, delete the paragraph beginning, at line 5, with the sentence "The sequence ..." and replace with the following:

The sequence information shown above is used to design a pair of nondegenerate convergent (i.e., one forward and one reverse primer) oligonucleotide primers. PCR amplification of DNA fragments is performed under the same conditions as described above with the exception that the annealing temperature is raised to 50°C. The DNA fragment is isolated from an agarose gel as before and radiolabelled using (32P)-gamma-ATP and T4 polynucleotide kinase according to standard methods. Unincorporated radiolabel is separated from the probe on a G25 SEPHAROSE™ (Agarose) spin column. Before use, the probe is denatured for 2 min. at 95°C and subsequently chilled on ice (4°C).

#### IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 53-55 without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 37-39 to read as follows:

37. (Four Times Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an isolated non-cytosolic polypeptide of a *Neisseria* spp. (NGSP) polypeptide, which is a polypeptide of a *Neisseria* species with the proviso that said *Neisseria* species is not *N. meningitidis*, which polypeptide has a molecular weight of about 40 kD to about 55 kD as determined in SDS polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis using glutamic dehydrogenase, carbonic anhydrase and myoglobin-blue as molecular

weight markers, and which polypeptide specifically binds an antibody that specifically binds to a polypeptide encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO. 3.

38. (Four Times Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO. 3.

39. (Thrice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a *Neisseria sp.* (NGSP) polypeptide which comprises a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes at 68°C in 0.5M NaHPO<sub>4</sub> (pH 7.2) 1 mM ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA)/7% SDS or at 65°C in 6X sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC), 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 1 mM EDTA, 0.02% polyvinylpyrrolidinone (PVP), 0.02% Ficoll, 0.02% bovine serum albumin (BSA) or in 50% formamide/0.25 M NaHPO<sub>4</sub> (pH 7.2)/0.25 M NaCl/1 mM EDTA/7% SDS to the sequence of nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO. 3 or the complement thereof, wherein said complement is complementary to at least 25 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO. 3.

Please add new Claim 56 as follows:

56. (New) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.: 4.

#### **REMARKS**

The indication that claims 38 and 49 are free of the prior art of record is gratefully acknowledged.